

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15, 17, 18 and 20-27 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, and 24-27 stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8 and 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice.

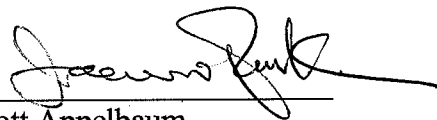
REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art, Iyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,383,723) and Schulz (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,151).

Without conceding the merits of the rejections, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8 and 24-27 to place the application in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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